

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF INSPECTOR OF LEGAL METROLOGY UNDER FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT MARCH, 2010

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay in about 1000 words on any one of the following topics: (15)
 - (a) Mobile phone usage and Mizo youth
 - (b) Honesty is the best policy
 - (c) Government service versus private entrepreneurship

2. Write a précis of the following passage, giving it an appropriate title: (8+2=10)

The great advantage of early rising is the good start it gives us in our day's work. The early riser has done a large amount of work before other men have got out of bed. In the early morning, the mind is fresh and there are few sounds or other distractions; so the work done at that time is generally well done. In many cases, the early riser also finds time to take some exercise in the fresh morning air and this exercise fills him with a fund of energy that will last until the evening. By beginning so early he knows that he has plenty of time to do thoroughly all the work he can be expected to do, and is not tempted to hurry over any part of it. He gets to sleep several hours before midnight, at a time when sleep is most refreshing and after a night's sound rest, rises early next morning in good health and spirits for the labour of a new day.

3. Write a letter of congratulations to a friend on his/her getting an appointment for a new job. (10)

4. Make sentences with the following idioms and phrases: (5×2=10)
 - (a) no time like the present
 - (b) hard of hearing
 - (c) get cold feet
 - (d) by word of mouth
 - (e) any Tom, Dick or Harry

5. Expand the following in not less than three times the original length: **(10)**

The test of a great book whether we want to read it only once...a really great book we want to read even more than the first time.....new meanings with every reading...if a person of education and taste does not care to read a book more than once then it is probably not worth much....but a single opinion not trustworthy....a great book is one read and enjoyed by many people over many generations.

6. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

Most people are afraid of snakes – but this fear is as irrational as the fear of ghosts. The fear of snakes, according to some biologists, may be an instinct passed on to us by our ancestors. There may be some truth in this theory because monkeys have a deep, instinctive fear of pythons and other tree snakes. Or it may be that we learn the fear of snakes as children from grown-ups. Anyway, snakes have been feared and hated for thousands of years, and in the literature of many countries, the snake is regarded as a symbol of evil.

Whatever the truth, there is no real reason for the terror which the sight of a snake causes in most people. Many more people are killed, much more frequently, by motorcycles and cigarettes than by snakes. The majority of snakes are harmless, and only too anxious to avoid human beings. Of the poisonous snakes, only those found in the sea are always dangerous; being aggressive by nature, they can attack human beings for no reason at all, taking a fisherman or swimmer by surprise in the water where the man is somewhat helpless.

- (a) Where do we get our fear of snakes from? **(2)**
- (b) How is a snake often symbolized as in literature? **(2)**
- (c) What kills people more often than snakes? **(2)**
- (d) What is the reaction of most snakes to human beings? **(2)**
- (e) How dangerous are poisonous water snakes? **(2)**

7. Identify the part of speech (noun/ adjective/ verb/ adverb/ preposition) in every italicized word: **(10)**

- (a) The clown chased a dog around the *ring* and then fell flat on his face.
- (b) Frankenstein *is* the name of the scientist, not the monster.
- (c) The manager *confidently* made his presentation to the board of directors.
- (d) The taxi-driver angrily waved his fist *at* the careless pedestrian.
- (e) I normally eat quickly and when I am very hungry, I eat *really* quickly.
- (f) This is the most *interesting* book I have ever read on Indian politics.
- (g) All candidates *must* have a good working knowledge of English.
- (h) She made a *graceful* exit from the room.
- (i) The *music* on his cell phone was so loud, it annoyed everyone.
- (j) The children slept *through* the rainstorm.

8. (i) *Identify the kinds of clauses in these sentences:* (5)
- (a) Because you are flying direct, you will probably have severe jet-lag.
 - (b) I like only those movies which end happily.
 - (c) Show me the folder in which you stored the documents.
 - (d) I do not know what he will do.
 - (e) When we sell the house, we'll probably leave most of the furniture.
- (ii) *Rewrite the following sentences without changing their meaning:* (5)
- (a) The last time I saw him was in 2001.
 - (b) I can never forget my first view of Aizawl.
 - (c) If only you wouldn't drive so fast.
 - (d) Somebody should tell him.
 - (e) The lecture was so boring that I left.
- (iii) *Combine each of the following pairs of sentences into a simple sentence:* (5)
- (a) He has a lot of money. But he is unhappy.
 - (b) I have some work. I must do it now.
 - (c) The rain stopped. We set out on our journey.
 - (d) You must love and respect your parents. It is your duty.
 - (e) They decided to elect John their chairman. All agreed to this.
9. Correct the errors in these sentences: (10)
- (a) I want you to promise me that you will stop to smoke.
 - (b) The new secretary has been running a fever from yesterday.
 - (c) A gang of thugs were hired to disrupt the procession.
 - (d) My teenaged daughter has been on the phone describing about her new dress for the last two hours.
 - (e) Who you said was coming to see me this evening?
 - (f) He was quite amusing when he heard what had happened.
 - (g) He jumped down after shouted a warning to those below.
 - (h) It is difficult to develop a recycling industry because of recycling needs a huge input of capital.
 - (i) The truth always prevails.
 - (j) I would rather play tennis than swimming.